

Appl. No.: 10/505,303
Reply to Office Action of: 08/14/2006

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REMARKS

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims have been amended above to overcome the rejection.

Claims 1, 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kuwano et al. (US 5,761,354). Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwano et al. (US 5,761,354) in view of Lutes (US 4,893,890). Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuwano et al. (US 5,761,354). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

The technical problem to be solved in the present invention is to provide an optical connector adapted to perform a coupling from a single mode optical fiber (or generally an optical device) emitting a light beam having a diameter smaller than that one of the core of a multi mode optical fiber. In Kuwano et al., on the other hand, the problem to be solved is to an optical coupling system for guiding emitted light from a light emitting device which emits light having different beam spread angles in vertical and horizontal directions into an optical fiber having a cross sectional beam shape of substantial roundness or circularity.

Claim 1 has been amended above such that it is now directed to an optical assembly comprising an optical connector including an input and an output optical port, and a multimode optical fiber facing the output optical port. The optical connector has a set of two lenses interposed between the input and

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output ports wherein the lenses have respective diameters and radii of curvature adapted to provide a fanning out of a light beam from the input optical port to the output optical port.

Kuwano et al. does not disclose or suggest an optical assembly comprising an optical connector and a multimode optical fiber facing an output optical port of the connector. Kuwano et al. merely discloses an optical coupling system for guiding emitted light from a light emitting device which emits light having different beam spread angles in vertical and horizontal directions into an optical fiber having a cross sectional beam shape of substantial roundness or circularity. There is no disclosure or suggestion of an optical assembly comprising an optical connector and a multimode optical fiber facing an output optical port of the connector as recited in claim 1.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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11/9/06
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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

November 9, 2006
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